

Throughout their lives, Chuck and Shelby Obershaw have exhibited kindness, love, humility, and a deep resolve to ameliorate all aspects of community life, so it is only appropriate that they receive the Golden Baton Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Chuck and Shelby Obershaw and express my sincere admiration that they have received this wonderful and well-deserved honor.

#### RECOGNITION OF FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder usually diagnosed in childhood, causing weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Sadly, I have a young constituent who suffers from this rare disease, Evan Luebke. Evan and his family are working to bring awareness to this disease in my district. I am proud of the strength and courage he exemplifies as he battles this disease.

Although there is no effective treatment or cure available, Friedreich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research insights has followed the identification of the Friedreich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedreich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments. In fact, they have recently declared that, "in Friedreich's ataxia, we have entered the treatment era."

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedreich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. The growing cooperation among organizations supporting the research, and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals, provide powerful evidence of the determination to conquer Friedreich's ataxia.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country, including one in West Chester, Ohio, to increase public awareness of Friedreich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 21,

2005, as Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

#### STATEMENT INTRODUCING REPEAL OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the United States Code. The Department of Defense, in response to calls to reinstate the draft, has confirmed that conscription serves no military need.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is on record citing the "notable disadvantages" of a military draft, adding, ". . . there is not a draft. . . . There will not be a draft."

This is only the most recent confirmation that the draft, and thus the Selective Service system, serves no military purpose.

Obviously, if there is no military need for the draft, then there is no need for Selective Service registration. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Selective Service registration is an outdated and outmoded system, which has been made obsolete by technological advances.

In fact, in 1993, the Department of Defense issued a report stating that registration could be stopped "with no effect on military mobilization and no measurable effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment." Yet the American taxpayer has been forced to spend over \$500 million dollars on an outdated system "with no measurable effect on military mobilization!"

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a bygone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICER ME- MORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Police Week, with May 15th designated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. It's a week where we pay tribute to our nation's law enforcement officers. In recognition of this event, I would like acknowledge the efforts of our federal, state and local law enforcement. Without their courage, commitment, and ability to meet the many challenges, our lives as Americans would be very different.

Simply put, law enforcement officers risk their lives so that others are protected. Every day these brave men and women go to work knowing there is a possibility they may not come home.

Last year, 153 police officers were killed in the line of duty. That is 153 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, daughters, and sons who weren't able to go home to their families at the end of the workday.

The Dallas Police Department has lost a total of 75 police officers:

C.O. Brewer, William H. Riddell, William McDuff, Leslie N Patrick, T.A. Tedford, W. Roy Thornton, Leroy Wood, Johnnie E. Gibson, John R. Crain, Charles S. Swinney, Dexter Clayton Phillips, Clarence Marshall Isbell, Alex W. Tedford, Sam Griffin Lanford, Jesse Emmett Griffin, Luke J. Bell, Ernest E. Leonard, Jr., John W. Dieken, John R. Roberts, Ralph Wendell Hoyt, Victor Leon Morris, Ernest Elmer Bates, Jr., Preston D. Hale, William Edward Stafford, Johnny W. Sides, Leonard C. Mullenax, Ray Allen Underwood, J.D. Tippit, Frank Weldon Bennett, James Douglas Stewart, Floyd A. Knight, Robert H. Shipp, Johnnie T. Hartwell, Allen Pery Camp, Carl Jackson Cooke, Howard Kenton Hicks, Joe Jones, Levy McQuietor, Jr., Milton E. Whatley, Donald P. Tucker, Sr., Leslie G. Lane, Jr., Alvin Duane Hallum, Alvin E. Moore, Robert W. Wood, John T. McCarthy, Charles J. "Chip" Maltese, Jr., John R. Pasco, Carl J. Norris, Ronald D. Baker, Robert L. Cormier, James C. Taylor, Thomas Lee Harris, Gary Reeves Blair, James Allen Joe, John Glenn Chase, Gary Don McCarthy, Walter Leon Williams, Lawrence R. Cadena, Sr., Lisa L. Sandel, Mark L. Fleming, Michael R. Okelberry, Thomas G. Burchfield, Sunny Ma Lov, Lawrence David Bromley, Harold Lee Hammons, Billy W. Daughterty, John Paul Jones, Jr., Richard A. Lawrence, David R. Galvan, Thomas D. Bond, Henry Allen Brown, Harold F. Baird, Jr., Donald F. Flusche, Jr., Christopher K. James, and Patrick Lee Metzler.

Mr. Speaker, the risk encountered by law enforcement officers serving in communities throughout this country is enormous; and this extraordinary sacrifice is all too often viewed as routine. Police officers put themselves at risk so that our communities can be safe. One week of recognition is simply not enough for that type of selflessness. America's men and women in uniform give us their best, and they deserve the best from us in return.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EINEZ YAP

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Einez Yap.

Einez Yap, who passed away unexpectedly on May 18, 2005, was a quintessential community activist who went about helping others in a quiet and dignified manner. Her passing is tragic, not just to her family, but to all those who knew her.

She was the visionary behind the establishment of LEASA Industries in 1977, when it began as a small family-owned business. Since its humble beginnings in Liberty City, the company has grown to become one of the largest growers of bean and alfalfa sprouts and one of the largest manufacturers of tofu and suppliers of fresh fruits and vegetables in the state of Florida.

A dutiful partner and wife to George Yap, President/CEO of LEASA Industries, Einez was a doting mother and proud grandmother. Her business acumen was instrumental in enabling LEASA Industries to become a recipient of the prestigious National Minority Manufacturer of the Year Award for 1997–1998 and the acknowledgement of LEASA Industries as one of Florida's fastest growing private companies by the University of Florida's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The tremendous success that Einez enjoyed in business, however, was secondary to her impact as a community leader. A member of several community organizations, Mrs. Yap was the resilient president of the Chinese Cultural Foundation and founder of the Organization of Chinese Americans, as well as the untiring entrepreneur spearheading the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year Festival in Miami-Dade County for the past decade. Additionally, she served on the Board of the Asian-American Federation of Florida, as well as Advisory Council of the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Young (NANAY), Inc. She has been the patroness and benefactress of many more community organizations that are at the forefront of seeking equality of opportunity for minority groups; and she has been a featured leader for the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board as it deals with the challenge of inclusion of the disenfranchised and the underrepresented in our community.

Her contributions to our community were recently acknowledged in March of 2005, when she was honored as a Pioneer at Miami-Dade County's "In The Company of Women" Awards—a distinction previously bestowed on the likes of former Congresswoman Carrie Meek and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, among others.

Her Catholic faith was the source of inspiration and motivation for her reaching out to the downtrodden—as evidenced by her commitment early on at LEASA Industries to employ hard-to-place and at-risk residents.

"They're God's people, too—and are in need of a second or third-chance in life . . . if we can't help them, then who will . . ." is often the stance that defined her commitment to the community she so loved.

Einez Yap was truly a woman of active compassion and a leader in our community,

and her passing is a heavy blow to our community. I know I speak for all my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathy and condolences to her husband, George Yap, and son Andrew.

## HEAD START REAUTHORIZATION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the goal of Head Start has always been to help young children in low-income families, specifically those below the poverty line, prepare for school. Head Start has focused its resources on the children most in need, and has been successful in narrowing the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. Today, we can correct a problem in Head Start and ensure that it serves all the children it was intended to.

The poverty thresholds were developed in the early 1960s and at that time statistics showed that families typically spent one-third of their income on food. The thresholds were designed to take the costs of the Department of Agriculture's economy food plan for families and multiply the costs by a factor of three. Currently, the calculations of the poverty line for Head Start are adjusted by the Consumer Price Index annually to account for the growth in prices. Unfortunately, the current calculation leaves important factors out of the calculation of the poverty line.

Adjusting only for changes in price growth ignores the reality that times have changed. It is not 1965. Today, families are much more likely to spend significant portions of their income on housing. It is more likely that both parents will be working full time jobs. Both childcare costs and the likelihood that a family will need it have also increased.

Additionally, the failure to adjust the poverty line as wages have grown now means that families in poverty today are worse off relative to the typical family than families in poverty were 40 years ago. For instance, the threshold for a family of four, when the poverty thresholds were first introduced—\$18,810 in 2003 dollars—was 42 percent of the median income of a family that size. By 2003, the value of the poverty threshold for a family of four had fallen to 35.7 percent. Adjusting only for changes in price growth for the past 40 years has slowly eroded the group of intended recipients. Now we are left with families in need of assistance whose children are not even eligible for Head Start.

This amendment seeks to bridge the gap that has been created and ensure that it will not be created again in the future. Currently, the 2005 poverty line for a family of 3 is \$16,090. By tying the poverty line to wage growth, rather than price growth, the poverty line for a family of 3 would become \$19,610. The increase in the poverty line produced by this change by no means raises eligibility to include every child who could benefit from Head Start. But this adjustment will significantly help the families who should have been eligible all along. It is a step in the right direction; the direction of ensuring that the working poor are given the help they need to survive.

This committee is not only charged with ensuring that Head Start programs are per-

forming well but with ensuring that they are serving all the children they were intended to. This amendment will help to ensure that children do not continue to be left behind. I urge my colleagues on the Committee on Education and Workforce to join me in supporting my amendment.

## TO HONOR MS. EMMA TORRES

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an amazing woman from my district, Emma Torres from Yuma, Arizona. She is a role model and inspiration for all; her work and dedication was recently recognized, internationally, when she was honored by Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ohtli Award. This award acknowledges her contributions to the development of Hispanic communities and for her support in social causes. The Ohtli award is given to distinguished Hispanic leaders who devote their lives promoting and fostering the prosperity of communities in the United States. The word Ohtli means "righteous path" in Nahuatl.

Emma has been a strong border community leader and health advocate for migrant and seasonal farm workers in Western Arizona for more than 20 years. After losing her husband to leukemia in 1982, she turned a personal and painful life experience into a mission to enhance the quality of life of farm workers. She co-founded and is the current Executive Director of Campesinos Sin Fronteras, a grassroots, community-based organization that uses education and advocacy to improve the standard of living for farm workers. Prior to her current position, she was the Field Office Director for Puentes de Amistad/Bridges in Friendship under the leadership of the Arizona Border Health Foundation. In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Emma to the US/Mexico Border Health Binational Commission.

She has pioneered the Lay Health Worker/Promotora Model in Arizona since 1987, and as a certified Inter-Cultural Affairs (ICA) facilitator has led efforts to bring adequate healthcare coverage to our most vulnerable populations.

Most recently Emma accomplished one of her personal dreams—she received her degree in social work from Northern Arizona University. This is the latest of recognitions for Emma's commitment, persistence, and belief in improving one's personal life and that of one's community.

Emma's life is an example to others; pursue one's dreams, believe in making change, be strong, and progress will prevail.

## TRIBUTE TO MS. JACQUELINE H. SMITH, NORTH MIAMI BEACH COUNCILWOMAN

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Jacqueline H. Smith, North